2975 Laurel Street #20
San Diego, California 92104
March 24, 1988

Dear Nicole,

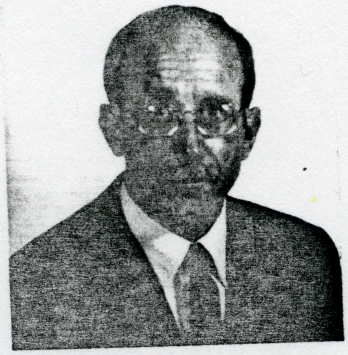
Enclosed are the picture and biographical information that you requested for purposes of presenting me with the Harvey Milk Memorial Award. I'm sure that it is far more information than you can use, so please pick out what you like. Feel free to call me at 280-7411 if you have any questions.

Many thanks for your part in selecting me for this very high honor.

Love in the struggle,

Jess

Jess Jessop



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON JESS JESSOP

1939 Born in Baltimore, Maryland

1961-67 United States Navy, Hospital Corps. Vietnam service with Marine Corps. Nominated for Navy's Silver Star for heroism.

Sep 1969 Moved to San Diego to attend San Diego State College (now University)

Sep 1970 Joined on-campus chapter of Gay Liberation Front. During next 2 years served as President, Vice-President, participated in first forums between gay groups and candidates for local political office, organized first openly-gay participation in a local campaign (Jack Walsh for Mayor). Functioned as Coordinator of the Gay Information Center (an outgrowth of GLF)

Oct 1972 Founded & co-chaired the Planning Committee for the Gay Center for Social Services

Sep 73--Sep 74 First Executive Director of the Gay Center For Social Services
Conducted first gay press conference in San Diego
Organized gay community protest against civil rights abuses in May Company arrests of 1974

1974-78 Member Gay Center for Social Services Board of Directors

1977 Grand Marshall San Diego Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade

Jan 1978 State Senate District Manager for AB-1 Constituent Lobby Day in Sacramento. Led the largest delegation from any county in the state.

1979 Charter member & spokesperson for Gay Alliance for Equal Rights
Participated in the first March On Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights

1980-85 Recovery from burnout, return to SDSU for bachelor's degree in Nursing.

1985-87 Volunteer at the San Diego AIDS Project:
Buddy Program
AIDS Crisis Line
Volunteer Training
Speakers Bureau--"Safe Sex" seminars at bathhouses for 18 months

Oct 86 Participant in "San Diego Walks For Life"--largest single fundraiser

Aug 87 Participant in "San Diego Walks For Life"--second largest single fundraiser

Oct 87 Participant in the March On Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights
Arrested on the steps of the Supreme Court for lesbian/gay rights

Dec 87 Organized the Planning Committee for the Lesbian/Gay Archives of San Diego

Feb 88 Recording Secretary & Project Historian for the NAMES Project Tour--San Diego Committee

Biographical Information on Jess Jessop (continued)

Worked on the following campaigns:

Early 70's Kapiloff for Assembly
Walsh for County Supervisor

1978 No On Proposition 6

1979 A1 Best for City Council

1986 No On Proposition 64

1987 Neil Good for City Council

Awards:

1973 Commendation from Assemblyman Larry Kapiloff for "efforts on behalf of the 78th District..."

1975 Pacific Coast Times Editor's award for "Humanitarian & Community Service"

1977 Nicky Award for "Gay Activist"

1979 Inducted into the San Diego Gay Hall of Fame

Memberships:

Life-Time Member Lesbian/Gay Men's Community Center

Charter Member San Diego Democratic Club

San Diego Veterans Association

Charter Member National National Gay/Lesbian Task Force

Charter Member Gay Rights National Lobby

Charter Member National Gay Rights Advocates

Charter Member Human Rights Campaign Fund

ACT UP San Diego

American Civil Liberties Union